

# ST. LOUIS EXPERIENCES COLDEST WEATHER SINCE 1884—MERCURY REGISTERS 18 DEGREES BELOW ZERO—MANY ACCIDENTS DUE TO COLD SPELL—STREET CAR WITH THIRTY-FIVE PASSENGERS STALLED ALL NIGHT.

## MANY ACCIDENTS DUE TO ZERO WEATHER

Several Persons Are Seriously Injured by Explosion of Frozen Water Heaters.

### FIRES THREATEN DWELLINGS.

Bursting of Boiler Harms Mrs. Eva Pierce, a Widow, Across Room and Wrecks Kitchen.

The intense cold of Sunday night is indirectly responsible for several accidents yesterday morning to persons who had lighted stoves with water heaters attached. Many explosions were reported to the police, the most serious being that at the boarding house of Mrs. Eva Pierce, at No. 344 North Kings highway.

She started a fire under the water heater shortly before a clock and was about her work in the kitchen. It is believed that the water in the boiler had frozen during the night, as the boiler exploded a few moments after the fire was lighted.

Mrs. Pierce was standing near the heater at the time of the explosion, and was thrown across the room against a small table.

When persons in the house heard the explosion, they rushed to the room. Mrs. Pierce was lying in a heap on the floor, motionless, and the fire, which had been kindled at the heater, was burning merrily.

Mrs. W. W. Featherstone of No. 432 Fountain avenue was called and he had been called to the hospital. He was unable to move, and the injuries would necessitate an operation, and said that he would not survive the operation.

The explosion demolished the stove and heater and was in the interior of the kitchen. All the windows in the room were broken, and the report around the neighborhood.

Mrs. Pierce was a widow, her husband, a lawyer, having died several years ago.

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## FRUIT BELIEVED TO BE UNINJURED

State Horticulturist Says Humidity of Atmosphere Probably Saved Crops, Though Trees May Have Been Hurt.

### REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Columbia, Mo., Feb. 13.—In spite of the fact that the thermometer at the Government Weather Bureau here registered 25 degrees below zero last night, the coldest of any time in the last three years, the authorities of the Missouri Agricultural College have not despaired of the peach crop. Doctor W. L. Howard of the Horticultural Department said:

"It is impossible to say just now what the result of the cold weather has been on the peach crop, as we have not been able to make a detailed examination of the trees on the State farm."

"It is probable, however, that a great many trees are killed, yet the humidity of the atmosphere last night will save some of them. The atmosphere last night was almost thoroughly saturated with moisture."

"It was expected that 50 per cent of the peach crop would be killed. If this cold weather had been preceded by any warm spell the crop would have been almost, if not wholly, destroyed. The least bit of warm weather will start the peach buds to growing, and then any cold weather will kill them."

"As it is, we have had no warm weather, and the buds were in good shape to withstand any sort of cold weather. I fear very much that the trees themselves may be injured. Trees were cracking in all parts of Columbia last night as a result of the extreme cold and it may result in great damage."

"All other fruit crops are uninjured, unless the trees have been ruined by the cold. The department will investigate conditions to-morrow and will be able to give a definite statement on the injury to the peach crop."

## HUNDREDS OF CATTLE DEAD IN OKLAHOMA BLIZZARD.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Guthrie, Ok., Feb. 13.—Henry Bone of Guthrie, a wealthy cattleman, and Charles Williams, a negro of Guthrie, were frozen to death last night. This morning the thermometer registered 18 degrees below zero, which is one degree lower than ever known in Oklahoma. Hundreds of cattle are dead.

Local citizens of St. Louis who, in spite of the cold wave of the past few weeks, have unflinchingly maintained that Missouri winters are as moderate as those in any other section of the country of the same latitude, may have to capitulate when they hear the opinion of a resident of the far North, who says the Mound City is now the coldest place she has ever known.

"It is back to Alaska for me, where they have a decent climate," said Mrs. Mary E. Hart of Cape Nome, the experienced Alaskan traveler who made herself so popular last summer while acting as a hostess of the Alaska building at the World's Fair.

"I would go back now," she continued, "if it were only possible to do so, but the navigation is blocked at present and I will have to wait until spring."

"Why, this is terrible," she said, with a shiver. "I came to the land like a knife, while in Alaska we never used to mind the cold at all. I have been thinking seriously of getting out my Eskimo suit and wearing it in the streets when I come home, but the fashion is a little advanced, and I suppose some ladies would be looking at me."

The woman in question would certainly make the ladies of the city jealous, as far as her material goes, but the fact is that Mrs. Hart is a woman of the "new woman" type—a blouse and pants woman.

## BOOKKEEPER SCALDED WHEN WATER PIPE EXPLODES.

In a peculiar accident at his home yesterday morning, Charles H. Miller of No. 30 Pennsylvania avenue, Belleville, was badly scalded about the head, face and arms, through the explosion of a water pipe in his range, the water in which froze and acted as a plug.

Mr. Miller is a well-known bookkeeper. His house yesterday morning and started the fire in the kitchen range. It did not burn well and he used plenty of kindling and forced draft. While adding some coal after the fire had a good start, he was scalded by an explosion which caused him to scalding water and steam and burning him severely. The hot water pipes leading from the range are believed to have frozen and this ice acted as a sort of plug, preventing the water from circulating and thus confining the little water that was in the pipes in the range water-back.

The intense heat caused by the hot fire converted this water into steam and the pressure was so great that the pipe was broken.

## TESTER OF STEAM PIPES MAY LOSE HIS EYESIGHT.

Joseph Graham, employed by the Illinois Central Railroad to test steam pipes in the passenger coaches, may lose his sight as a result of the explosion of a steam pipe which he was testing yesterday morning. He is at St. Mary's hospital, East St. Louis, and his condition last evening was reported serious.

While testing a pipe which had been

## WOMAN EXPLORER OF ICY ALASKA SHIVERS IN COLD OF FRIGID ST. LOUIS

Mrs. Mary E. Hart, Hostess of the Territory Building at World's Fair, Says Mound City Is the Coldest Place She Ever Visited—Never Had a Cold in Frost on North, but Is Stricken With Pneumonia Here—Departs Shortly to Return to Cape Nome to Work Gold Claims With Pick and Shovel.



MRS. MARY E. HART. Manager of the Alaskan World's Fair exhibit, in the Eskimo costume worn by her in the far North.

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She has six claims there, which she acquired when living in the Territory several years ago. She will develop these and will go out to work one of them herself. Not to superintend the work, but with pick and shovel, muscle and determination, she will join the army of eager searchers for the precious metal that rewards all hardships.

This will not be the first time that Mrs. Hart has delved in the earth for gold. Her first venture was in the Territory, where she worked her claims in the daytime and wrote descriptions of her life at night. She wrote the costume of a man, did his work and, it is said, was successful in any of the strongest men. She wears about her neck an old chain made of gold nuggets which she washed out herself in a miner's pan.

## REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Bloomington, Ill., Feb. 13.—Game Warden Charles Holze of this city today received authority to expend the sum of \$500 for feeding game birds during the extreme cold.

He has supervision over twelve counties and will expend \$50 for each county. He will purchase corn for feed and it will be distributed in places frequented by quail and prairie chickens.

## ESTIMATES CATTLE LOSSES FROM BLIZZARD AT 50,000.

Wichita, Kan., Feb. 13.—W. F. Bolton, secretary of the Oklahoma Live Stock Association, says the live-stock losses this year will be the greatest since the great blizzard year of 1897.

He places the number of head lost on the range in Western Kansas, Western Oklahoma and the Panhandle of Texas at 50,000 head.

## STREET CAR STALLED IN DRIFT ALL NIGHT

Thirty-Five Men, Women and Children Snowbound Near O'Fallon on East Side.

### RESCUED IN SIX-HORSE SLEIGH

Railway Company Furnishes Hot Coffee and Sandwiches to Hungry Passengers—Traffic Resumed at Noon.

Thirty-five men, women and children, in a car on the Lebanon branch of the East St. Louis and Suburban Electric Railway, were stalled in a snowdrift about two miles west of O'Fallon from 10:30 o'clock Sunday night until early yesterday morning.

They were taken from the car yesterday to O'Fallon in a big six-horse sleigh, sent to the scene by General Superintendent J. M. Bramlette. F. H. Thomas, the passenger agent of the company, was in charge of the sleigh and furnished the passengers with hot wieners and coffee. Breakfast was served at O'Fallon also at the expense of the street-car company. The car was extricated shortly before noon, when the tracks were cleared and traffic was resumed.

The car was westbound, in charge of Motorcar Charles Breuninger and Conductor C. A. White. A mile west of O'Fallon huge snowdrifts were encountered, but by backing the drifts some headway was made. A mile farther it was necessary for Motorcar Breuninger to "back" the drifts every few yards.

Progress kept getting slower and slower, and the drifts seemed to pile higher and higher. Finally no more headway could be made. Try as he could, the car could make no impression on the solid bank of snow which had been blown from off the hillside and filled the valley where the track is laid.

Satisfied that he could make no further headway, Motorcar Breuninger informed the passengers that he would have to go back to O'Fallon and that they would have to remain aboard all night if he could not get through the snow bank. For the first hundred feet all went well. The car moved slowly, then it came to a stop. Breuninger realized that he would have to "back" his way back to O'Fallon. Then began an hour's hard work, which he finally gave up in disgust. The snow banked higher and higher, until the car was finally surrounded six feet deep, and had to clean off the tracks as they advanced.

Every car is supplied with a telephone, and Conductor White immediately got into communication with Superintendent Bramlette, who ordered a gang of fifty men to the scene. They had to go toward the stalled car from the west bank, as the street car tracks are on the east bank and had to clean off the tracks as they advanced.

In the meantime the passengers had been informed that in all likelihood they would have to remain in the car until the relief crew sent out from French Village extracted them from the bank of snow. Several of the women in the car had by this time become somewhat excited, but their fears were soon quieted.

Men who had to go to work and those passengers who had loved ones awaiting their homecoming telephoned to the car shed, and employees of the company relayed the messages to their destination. The spirits of the passengers in the car were kept up by the fact that the car shed was always in touch by telephone, and the power was on, keeping the car well lighted. The electric heaters, according to the crew, never worked better, and the stoves kept the car warm.

Toward morning, when it became evident from the progress of the snow bank, was making that the car would not be reached for several hours, Superintendent Bramlette ordered the biggest sleigh, drawn by six horses, in O'Fallon, sent to the car.

F. H. Thomas, the excursion agent of the company, attended to the sleigh and saw to it that the bottom was well filled with straw and blankets. He also took along a big can of hot coffee and a large quantity of wieners and sandwiches. The coffee and sandwiches disappeared quickly as soon as the car was reached.

## MINI PLAY CALLED.

The resulting party drove close to the car and a path was cut for the women and children. The entire party piled into the sleigh and was soon in a hotel at O'Fallon telling the experience to hundreds of the citizens of the place, and enjoying a good breakfast. The children, who were seven in the car, fell asleep early, as did several of the women passengers. One of the men had a deck of cards in his pocket, and enquire and seven-up helped to while away a good part of the time, while the rest of the passengers told stories of took naps.

At noon yesterday the snow shovellers, selected by two locomotives, succeeded in clearing the track to the car. After dinner the track was all cleared and the schedule was resumed.

A car on the Collinsville division, near French Village, jumped the track while backing snow off the drift. Traffic was delayed on this division until nearly noon, when the crew was about the car.

## COLD AT CHICAGO BRINGS SUFFERING

Two Persons Probably Fatally Frozen—Man Dies From Fall on Pavement—Fifty Are Frost Bitten.

### REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 13.—An official temperature of 19 degrees below zero brought suffering to hundreds in Chicago to-day. At Franklin Park, a northwestern suburb, the temperature fell to thirty-three degrees below zero early this morning. Nearly fifty persons were found numb and frost-bitten and many were taken to public stations and hospitals in serious plight.

W. H. Long fell on the ice and sustained a fractured skull. He died while being taken to the County Hospital. John Condon, who fell on the ice, was taken to the County Hospital where, it is said, he will die.

Andrew McCarthy, a janitor, was seriously frozen that amputation of arms and legs may be necessary to save his life. Two public schools were forced to close because frozen steam pipes made it impossible to heat the buildings.

To save the general suffering there were many fires, and the firemen were obliged to work in shifts while fighting the flames.

At the crib, where a temperature of from 25 to 30 degrees below zero was recorded, the men engaged in keeping the floating ice out of the intake were obliged to work in shifts of fifteen minutes in order to keep from being over-cooled.

## MERCURY 18 DEGREES BELOW: COLDEST SPELL SINCE 1884.

Continued From Page One.

It is filled with patients suffering from frostbite and exposure.

Patsy Caldwell, a negro, with no settled place of abode, was taken to the hospital from the Levee district at 9:45 o'clock yesterday morning. Her feet were completely frozen, and her condition has been pronounced serious.

Mary McDonald, a widow, 64 years old, living at No. 223 O'Fallon street, was discovered unconscious at Sheridan avenue and Thomas street and taken to the hospital at 10 o'clock. She was pronounced suffering from exposure, which may result fatally on account of her advanced age.

William Roberts, a laborer, living in the neighborhood of Second street and Clark avenue, and Fred Summers of No. 1324 Franklin avenue, were taken to the hospital at noon. Roberts' feet were badly frozen and Summers was suffering from frozen hands.

John Miller of No. 304 South Second street and J. W. Kling of No. 549 Delatour street were taken to the hospital in the afternoon. They were suffering from exposure, and King's condition is believed to be serious.

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS, the condition of none of whom is serious, applied for treatment at the City Dispensary: Irvin Richmond, clerk, No. 174 North Fourteenth street; frozen ears.

Levi McDonald, shoemaker, No. 213 North Nineteenth street; frozen ears.

Herman Hubert, No. 1116 North Eighth street; frozen ears.

C. Morgan, No. 308 Third street; frozen ears.

J. Kowalski, No. 126 Third street; frozen ears.

F. Jerome, driver, No. 324 South Fifteenth street; frozen ears.

Andrew Spiller, laborer, No. 233 Easton avenue; ears frozen.

E. Smith, laborer, No. 108 High street; frozen ears.

John Tenny, No. 1724 Morgan street; frozen ears.

Sam Shapiro, shoemaker, No. 1226 North Ninth street; frozen ears.

R. Lucas, clerk, No. 270 Gamble street; frozen ears.

Henry Sommerkamp, woodworker, No. 3213 Madison street; frozen ears.

Edward Powney, laborer, No. 388 Russell avenue; frozen ears.

John Kelly, salesman, No. 793 Lelandale avenue; frozen ears.

N. T. Hatzel, clerk, Recorder's office; frozen ears.

## STATE IN GRASP OF INTENSE COLD

Missouri Thermometers Register From Eleven to Thirty-Two Degrees Below Zero—Higher Temperature Follows.

### REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

SIX PERSONS FROZEN TO DEATH BY INTENSE COLD. Henry Bone of Ponca, Ok., a wealthy cattleman, frozen to death at Guthrie, Ok.

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The Weather To-Day

We believe will be fairly slowly rising temperature.

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